

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD USE EXCLUSION

(Acre)
CODE 472

DEFINITION

Excluding animals, people or vehicles from an area.

PURPOSES

- To prevent, restrict, or control access to an area to maintain or improve the quantity and quality of resources.
- To prevent, restrict, or control access to an area to minimize human health, liability, and safety concerns.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On all land uses where permanent or temporary use exclusion is needed.

CRITERIA

Barriers may consist of both natural and artificial structures such as logs, vegetation, earth-fill, boulders, fences, gates, electronic devices, or signs.

Barriers must be adequate to prevent, restrict, or control use by targeted vehicles, animals or people and not be a safety hazard. Barrier life expectancy must be adequate for the intended purpose.

The standard, specification, and job sheet(s) for the Fencing practice (382) will be used to plan fences installed under this practice.

Where big game exclusion or management is determined to be a purpose for fence installation, the fence will be a minimum of 8 feet in height, 12-gauge net wire, a maximum of 16 feet between posts.

When managing human trespass as a goal of the exclusion, review state and local law and regulations to determine type of signage or warnings that meet legal requirements and minimize liability. Advise the client of these findings.

Timing and exclusion periods must be described to accomplish intended purposes.

Comply with applicable laws and regulations, including New Mexico Best Management Practices (BMPs).

CONSIDERATIONS

Assess potential landowner and user liability before installing barriers.

Public use may be an issue in areas where public right of access has previously been established by past use and law. Barriers may effect landowner tax status.

Barrier type and design should account for and minimize impact to wildlife health and animal movement.

Barriers should account for and minimize public safety activities such as fire control.

Consider the effects of installation of barriers and fences on the integrity of subsurface cultural resources (including compaction). Also consider the benefits installation may have on cultural resources by reducing the potential for erosion due to livestock and vehicle traffic.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan or other acceptable documentation.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Barriers may become the targets of acts of vandalism.

Barriers will be periodically inspected and repairs performed as needed.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resource Conservation Service.